

Appln No.: 09/678,357
Amendment Dated: October 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing possible presence of gastritis in a human by evaluating a blood sample, comprising the steps of:

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for H,K-ATPase,

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for Helicobacter pylori,

assaying the blood sample for the concentration of pepsinogen I, and

comparing the presence of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration to the respective values of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen concentration of a normal population, and

further comprising the steps of multiplying the concentration level of pepsinogen I by the concentration level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies to get a number, and comparing the number to a number calculated similarly for the normal ~~population~~: population,

wherein ~~concentrations levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I ~~concentration~~ in the sample and the number obtained by multiplying the

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concentration level of pepsinogen I by the concentration level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies that are different from ~~the~~ respective corresponding values in ~~the~~ a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of determining the concentrations levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I, comprises performing immunoassays for detecting H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18-19 (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein a concentration level of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

21. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein a concentration level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum, or pangastritis.

22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein increased concentrations levels of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

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23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein measured concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than concentrations ~~levels~~ in a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

25-26 (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein a concentration ~~level~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein a concentration ~~level~~ of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum gastritis; or pangastritis.

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein increased concentrations ~~levels~~ of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

31. (canceled)

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32. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein measured concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than concentrations ~~levels~~ in the ~~a~~ normal population are indicative of gastritis.

33-43. (canceled)